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Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Honors Intel with Prestigious Worker Safety Award**

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry today presented Intel Corporation with a prestigious worker safety award. The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Zia Star award was presented to Intel to recognize their industry-leading worker safety and health management systems.

VPP Star is the nation's highest recognition of worksites with comprehensive, successful safety and health management systems. Recipients of the VPP Star have achieved injury and illness rates at or below the national average for their respective industries. Intel has an injury and illness rate 69 percent below the national average. The Rio Rancho facility is the first Intel site in the nation to receive a VPP award.

"Protecting workers may not be the best known, but is among the most important jobs we do at NMED," said Secretary Curry. "Intel's efforts in this area have made them a national leader. They should be very proud of this accomplishment."

The VPP is managed by NMED's Occupation Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) in conjunction with the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and participants also receive national recognition for their accomplishments.

"I'd like to congratulate every one of our employees whose commitment to employee health and safety made it possible to become a VPP Star worksite," said Tim Hendry, Intel Vice President, Technology and Manufacturing Group and Fab 11X Plant Manager. "This is a great accomplishment and recognition of their dedication to world class safety."

Intel contractor ROCO Rescue was also recognized with a VPP Zia Star Award today.

To achieve VPP Zia Star status an employer must:

- Complete an extensive application for review by NMED OHSB
- Invite an NMED OHSB team for an onsite review of the facility
- Correct all hazards within 90 days of the review

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NMED OHSB has been working with Intel for the past year to assist them through the VPP process. This has included several onsite visits, providing recommendations and finally conducting an onsite verification review.

The Intel and ROCO onsite review was conducted from July 19-23, 2004. The review team consisted of 10 team members from NMED OHSB and Federal OSHA. The team was made up of safety officers, industrial hygienists and an ergonomist. The audit included a thorough review of written programs, a complete facility inspection and interviews with more than 400 employees.

In addition to positive recognition, VPP awardees receive a three-year exemption from random worker safety inspections. Inspections will be conducted however if NMED receives a formal complaint from an employee or if a fatality or catastrophic accident occurs in the workplace.

Intel's Rio Rancho facility is only the second employer in New Mexico to receive this prestigious honor. Vista Corrugated in Santa Teresa received NMED's first Zia Star award last year.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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